**Operation Christmas Child**

Last week in the school newsletter, there was an article informing the school community of a wonderful program that the grade 5/6 students will be participating in – Operation Christmas Child.

We have set ourselves the goal of filling all 150 of the shoe boxes that our Level four students are decorating as part of the visual arts program. Once filled, they can be sent to needy children around the world as part of *Operation Christmas Child*, which is run by Samaritan’s Purse.

To do this we need everyone’s help. Each shoe box needs to be filled with one item from each of the following 5 categories

1. **SOMETHING TO LOVE**  
   Teddy bear, doll, soft toy, etc.
2. **SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL**  
   Exercise book, pencil case, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, sharpener, eraser, chalk, etc.
3. **SOMETHING TO WEAR**  
   T-shirt, shorts, underwear, cap, beanie, sandals, thongs, etc.
4. **SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH**  
   Tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, musical instrument, yo-yo, slinky, finger puppets, wind up torch, etc. (No battery operated items)\*
5. **SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE**  
   Soap and face washer, toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, hair-clips, scrunchies, etc.(No toothpaste)\*
6. **SOMETHING SPECIAL**  
   Carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, necklaces, craft kits, stickers

All of these items above are examples of what can be donated, but are by no means the only possibilities. It is important to remember however that there are some items that cannot be accepted and that everything needs to fit into a shoe box!

The items that can’t be put in the shoe boxes are as follows:

* **ITEMS THAT LEAK OR MELT** (these can spoil boxes)  
  Including toothpaste, shampoo, bubbles, plasticine/playdough, batteries.
* **ANY FOOD or LOLLIES**  
  Of any kind (due to shipping regulations) including medicines and vitamins.
* **ANY USED or DAMAGED ITEMS**  
  (Due to customs regulations) including clothing and toys.
* **ANY BREAKABLE ITEMS**  
  Including glass, porcelain, mirrors.
* **ANY ITEM THAT CAN SCARE or HARM A CHILD**  
  Including knives, war-related toys, toy guns.
* **ANY GAMBLING-RELATED ITEMS**  
  including play money, playing cards, dominoes.
* **ANYTHING OF A RELIGIOUS, RACIAL  
  OR POLITICAL NATURE**

I believe it is a wonderful way for us to support those children who are less fortunate than ourselves and encourage all families to participate any way they can. You may be able to donate items to fill one or more boxes, or a single item. Perhaps you own a business or know a contact for a business who might be able to donate relevant items.

There will be a basket placed outside the art room where you can place your items.

If you would like further details please don’t hesitate to contact me or you could look on the website for more information. <http://operationchristmaschild.org.au/>

Julie Hall

Visual Arts